

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 4579

EXDIS

EO: 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE PFOR XG

SUBJ: CSCE: TIMING OF STAGE III

REF: GENEVA 4429 NOTAL

1. NATO CAUCUS DISCUSSED TIMING OF STAGE III JUNE 17 FOLLOWING EC-NINE REPORT ON REVIEW OF THIS SUBJECT BY POLITICAL DIRECTORS IN DUBLIN. POLITICAL DIRECTORS REPORTEDLY BASED THEIR DISCUSSION ON NEW BREZHNEV LETTER TO SEVERAL WESTERN LEADERS PROPOSING CONVENING OF STATE III ON JULY 22, AND CONCLUDED THAT EC FOREIGN MINISTERS SHOULD DECIDE ON HOW TO REPLY TO THIS LETTER DURING THEIR JUNE 24 MEETING, IN THE LIGHT OF THE CSCE NEGOTIATING SITUATION AT THAT TIME. NATO CAUCUS AGREED THAT CERTAIN SUBSTANTIVE WESTERN OBJECTIVES SHOULD BE SATISFIED BEFORE A DATE FOR STAGE III IS ACCEPTED, AND MOST IMPORTANT AMONG THESE WAS CLEARLY CBM PARAMETERS. WE SAID WE ALSO THOUGHT QRR SAVING CLAUSE SHOULD BE AGREED BEFORE STAGE III DATE IS FIXED AND WERE SUPPORTED BY FRG AND FRANCE. OTHER DELS MENTIONED THEIR SPECIAL INTERESTS, SUCH AS FOLLOW-UP OR LEGAL DISCLAIMER FOR FINAL TEXTS, BUT THESE WERE NOT REPEAT NOT GENERALLY ACCEPTED AS CONDITIONS FOR ACCEPTANCE OF STAGE III DATE. TURKISH DEL EXPLAINED THEIR RESERVATION ON CYPRUS REPRESENTATION (SEPTTEL).

2. NATO CAUCUS DISCUSSION FOCUSSED ON MECHANICS LEADING UP TO JUNE 26 MEETING OF COORDINATING COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS GENERALLY CONFIDENTIAL

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RECOGNIZED AS DEADLINE FOR TAKING A CONFERENCE DECISION OF STAGE

III IS TO BE HELD IN JULY (SEE REFTTEL). (THERE IS NO MECHANISM IN CSCE FOR CALLING UNSCHEDULED MEETINGS). CAUCUS FORESAW THE FOLLOWING PROBABLY SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

(A) JUNE 19 -- COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING AT WHICH IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT NEUTRALS WILL PUT THE CONFERENCE ON WARNING THAT A DECISION ON A STAGE III IN JULY WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN AT JUNE 26 COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING.

(B) JUNE 24 -- EC-NINE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET (IN LUXEMBOURG) AND DECIDE ON THEIR REPLY TO NEW BREZHNEV LETTER, IN LIGHT OF NEGOTIATING SITUATION.

(C) JUNE 24 (EVENING) -- NATO CAUCUS IN GENEVA RECEIVES REPORT OF EC-NINE FOREIGN MINISTERS DECISION, AND REVIEWS THE SITUATION IN PREPARATION FOR JUNE 26 COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

(D) JUNE 26 -- COORDINATING COMMITTEE TAKES DECISION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT A STAGE III IN JULY IS POSSIBLE.

3. CANADIAN REP, EXPRESSING A VIEW WHICH IS COMMON IN THE CORRIDORS HERE, SAID THAT IF STAGE III IS NOT HELD IN JULY, IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO FORESEE ANOTHER DATE PRIOR TO LATE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER. FROM RECENT STATEMENTS BREZHNEV HAS MADE TO THE PRESS WE INFER THAT SUCH A DELAY WOULD ALSO EFFECT THE SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD TIMING OF THE US-SOVIET BILATERAL SUMMIT.

4. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE JUNE 26 COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING IN THE LAST POSSIBLE DATE FOR A DECISION ON A STAGE III IN JULY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING INSTRUCTIONS ON TIMING FOR USE AT JUNE 24 NATO CAUCUS.DALE

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